

The first Mrs. Hemingway tells her side of the story

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In her runaway best-selling novel, “The Paris Wife,” Paula McLain asks readers to imagine the life of a talented, smart, educated and fairly well-to-do 28-year-old woman who has no prospect of becoming a wife.

Then, a dashing, brash, larger-than-life younger man enters her life, sweeps her off your feet, marries her and takes her to Paris to live while he works to become a writer.

Well, that’s what happened to Hadley Richardson in 1920. The young man was Ernest Hemingway, just home from World War I, full of himself and gifted with a talent that would carry him to the heights of the literary world.

The novel details the ups and downs of the young married couple as they struggle to find their way in 1920s Paris.

Hadley’s life might not have been as McLain imagined, but, borrowing the last line of “The Sun Also Rises,” “Isn’t it pretty to think so?”